



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLADSTONE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Gladstone, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Brent L. Francis, 27, of Gladstone, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Francis** admitted that he sold methamphetamine between Aug. 6, 2003, and Aug. 25, 2003. Specifically, **Francis** admitted that he sold 6.16 grams of actual methamphetamine on Aug. 6, 2003, 10.84 grams on Aug. 13, 2003, and 10.73 grams on Aug. 25, 2003.

Under federal statutes, **Francis** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in prison without parole, plus a \$2 million fine. His sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Francis was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 29, 2004, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, Metro Meth Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow